

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES

The 160th Meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) was held at 81 – 95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide on Thursday 18 September 2025.

Statement of Acknowledgement

The Chairperson acknowledged that the land that the Council members meet on today is the traditional lands for Kurna people and that the Council respect their spiritual relationship with their country. The Chairperson also acknowledged the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

Heritage Council: Chair: Ms Sandy Verschoor Members: Mr David Brooks, Dr Stephen Schrapel, Mrs Deborah Lindsay, Mr Jamie Botten, Professor Gini Lee, Ms Michelle Toft and Mr Tim Lloyd.

Secretariat: Mr David Hanna, Executive Officer, Heritage South Australia, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Ms Beverley Voigt, Manager, Heritage South Australia (DEW).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Ms Verschoor welcomed all to the 160th meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council).

There was an apology from Ms Eleanor Walters.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Declarations of conflict of interest

Mrs Lindsay declared a conflict of interest in relation to a matter discussed in-confidence.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Council considered the draft minutes of the 14 August 2025 meeting and was adopted with amendments.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the minutes of the 14 August 2025 meeting subject to amendments.

4. ACTION ITEMS

Two action items were discussed:

Ms Voigt noted that all items for consideration at the October meeting are on track.

It was noted that the letters to owners relating to compliance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993* are being progressed by Heritage SA.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the action items.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nil to report.

6. IN CAMERA DISCUSSION

The Council had an in-camera discussion pursuant to section 7 (6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

In camera text removed for publication.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION**7.1 Discussion on Research Project proposal**

It was noted that Mrs Deborah Lindsay returned to the meeting.

Mr Leonard Blazeby noted that Council had approved a research project at its 26 June meeting to provide evidence of the economic benefit of heritage. Mr Blazeby invited Council to discuss the scope of the research proposal.

The following is a summary of the key points made in discussion:

- How the project is framed. Suggestion to include social and environmental value of heritage. Economists should look at non-market values. Mr David Throsby, a Distinguished Professor of Economics at Macquarie University in Sydney, has taken a broad approach to the value of heritage and provides an example of the type of research we are looking for.
- Be clear on the outcome sought through this work - the need to try and leverage further funding through it.

- The value of South Australia's heritage has interstate and international appeal.

It was agreed that the assessment of economic and social value needs to be clear in the project brief. Use, and non-use values (non-market) should be explicit in the project brief.

Council members were invited to provide further advice to Mr Blazeby out of session.

RESOLUTION

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Discussed and Approved** the scope for the research project on the economic value of heritage.

7.2 Communication Strategy 2025/2026

Mr Blazeby introduced this matter. It was noted that Council members had been provided a copy of its previous Communication Strategy to demonstrate what had been done previously.

Council discussed the important elements of a Communication Strategy and the parameters for drafting it.

Action: Heritage SA to prepare a draft Strategy based on advice, with support from DEW Corporate Communications. Mr Blazeby to engage with Ms Toft and Ms Verschoor in preparing the Strategy.

RESOLUTION

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Discussed and agreed** on an approach to develop its Communication Strategy.

7.3 Project updates for 2025/26

Blue plaques

Mr Hanna provided an update on the blue plaques project. Seven have been installed. It was noted that owners of newly listed State Heritage Places are offered a blue plaque.

Regional meeting

Mr Hanna spoke to a proposal for a regional meeting in March 2026. The Council agreed to a regional visit and meeting to the Fleurieu Peninsula in March 2026. Council endorsed visits to the concentration of heritage places in Strathalbyn and how Goolwa works as a State Heritage Area as part of this visit.

Action: Mr Hanna to send meeting request to Council members.

Annual Heritage forum

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The Council discussed proposals for a Heritage Forum to be held in April 2026. The Council agreed unanimously that the focus of the forum would be a discussion on state and local heritage listings. An alternative topic of digital heritage was considered as a fallback.

Heritage Strategy for SA

Heritage SA noted that a briefing has been prepared and sent to the Minister regarding the approach to consultation on the draft Heritage Strategy for SA.

Local government engagement

The Council has allocated funding in 2025/26 to continue engagement with local government staff and Councillors. It was noted that this work will be done in association with the Local Government Association and the Planning Institute of South Australia and with input from the Outback Communities Authority.

It was suggested that this event could be linked by date to the heritage forum to help maximise the number of attendees.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the update on progress relating to projects.

8 ITEMS FOR NOTING**8.1 Correspondence**

The Council noted incoming and outgoing correspondence.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the correspondence.

8.2 DEW Report

Council noted the report provided by DEW.

It was noted that the *Heritage Places Act 1993* has been amended to include a new section 37, requiring the Council to prepare a report when an application is made for demolition of a State Heritage Place. The Council considered and endorsed a draft template for an application for this report.

RESOLUTIONS:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the report provided by DEW.

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- **Endorsed** the template for an application for a report relating to demolition of a State Heritage Place.

9 Any Other Business

Nil.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Ms Sandy Verschoor closed the meeting at 12:30pm.



Ms Sandy Verschoor, Chair

Date: 30 October 2025

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